

### **REMARKS**

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-5, 8-19 and 22-30 are pending. Claims 6, 7, 20, 21 and 29 are cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 30 is included for the Examiner's consideration. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is requested.

A. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In the Office action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-4, 6-12 and 14 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by *Roush* (USP 3,629,960). The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-5 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by *Gilbert* (USP 3,538,976).

In an effort to expedite the successful resolution of this case, applicant has cancelled dependent claims 6 and 7 and incorporated their features into independent claim 1. Similarly, applicant has cancelled dependent claims 20 and 21 and incorporated their features into independent claim 15.

Consequently, independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include “an indicator coupled to one or more of the panels, the indicator having a plurality of configurations, wherein one configuration of the indicator indicates that the individual is working on an assignment and another configuration of the indicator indicates that the individual has completed the assignment” (claim 1) and “providing an indicator coupled to one or more of the panels, the indicator having a plurality of configurations, wherein one configuration of the indicator indicates that the individual is working on an assignment and another configuration of the indicator indicates that the individual has completed the assignment” (claim 15).

Thus, each of independent claims 1 and 15 requires (1) an indicator that is (2) coupled to one or more of the panels and (3) has a plurality of configurations. Moreover, each of independent claims 1 and 15 further requires that (1) in one configuration of the indicator, the indicator indicates that an individual is working on an assignment and (2) in another configuration of the indicator, the indicator indicates that the individual has completed an assignment.

In the Office action, the only basis for rejecting dependent claims 6 and 7(now incorporated into independent claim 1) and 20 and 21 (now incorporated into independent claim 15) was *Roush*. Specifically, in paragraph 3 of the Office action, the Examiner asserts that *Roush* discloses an “indicator having a plurality of configurations, one configuration of the indicator [indicating] that [an] individual is working on an assignment and another configuration

of the indicator [indicating] that the individual has completed the assignment.” The Office action fails to cite to the section of *Roush* that allegedly discloses these features. After carefully reviewing *Roush*, applicant respectfully submits that *Roush* does not, by itself or in combination with the other art of record, disclose or in any way suggest the features of dependent claims 6 and 7 (now incorporated into independent claim 1) and 20 and 21 (now incorporated into independent claim 15).

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 15, as well as all claims dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance

B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office action, the Examiner has rejected claims 13, 15, 17-18 and 20-29 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Roush*. The Examiner has also rejected claims 15-19 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gilbert*.

At least for the reasons stated above, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 15, as well as all claims dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance, addressing each rejection under 35 USC §103(a), except for claim 29. Claim 29 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the amendments and arguments herein, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicant believes this case is in a condition for allowance, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims.


Applicant reserves the right to prosecute additional claims, including claims of broader scope, in any related application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 19-3878**.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below if it would in any way advance prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 5, 2006

  
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